



Biographical Sketch

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 910-432-6005

SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL L. RUSSELL

Killed in action on June 28, 2005

Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Russell died June 28, 2005, in eastern Afghanistan when his MH-47D helicopter was shot down by enemy fire during combat operations.

A resident of Rincon, Ga., he was born September 28, 1973 in Virginia.

Russell joined the Army in October of 1991 as a Chinook helicopter repairer. After completing Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S. C., his first duty station was Barbers Point, Hawaii, where he remained until April 1995. In May 1995, he departed to the 158th Aviation Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo. In August 1996, Russell was assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), where he served as a flight engineer with the 3rd Battalion, 160th SOAR (Airborne), Hunter Army Air Field, Ga.



Russell's military schools include: the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course and the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal for valor, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Superior Unit Award and the Senior Army Crew Member Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal for Valor, the Master Army Crew Member Badge and the Combat Action Badge.

He is survived by his wife Annette of Savannah, Ga., and two daughters, Lauren and Megan.

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